



STRENGTHENING PEACE IN COLOMBIA

THIRD QUARTER REPORT
January - March 2002



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Program for Strengthening Peace in Colombia (hereafter the Peace Program) completed its third quarter of implementation at the end of March 2002 with a total of 20 sub-projects approved and in implementation, representing USD 1,864,826 in project expenses and unliquidated obligations or 83% of the available funds under the budgetary line for sub-grants and contracts. Although, as of the end of March some 313,981 USD were still available under this line, the Program is maintaining close to 300,000 USD in reserve for two projects, pre-approved by USAID, to be implemented directly by IOM, including a Casa de Justicia in the former demilitarized zone and an International Seminar on Negotiation, Disarmament and Reintegration of Ex – Combatants. To date, these projects have direct impact in 11 departments and 25 municipalities to the direct benefit of approximately 44,000 persons.

Four new projects were approved for immediate implementation in the last quarter. Two of these are located in the prioritized region of Magdalena Medio or, more specifically, in its most violent urban center, Barrancabermeja. The other projects approved in this period are national in scope; the Electoral Conference was based in Bogotá but included participants from around the country and the Ludotecas project (recreational/educational centers for children and youths) is to develop activities in 40 municipalities throughout Colombia.

During this quarter, the Program developed another component or area of activities, following a request by USAID to sponsor the construction of a multi-purpose Center for Peaceful Co-Existence; the first of these projects is located in the Barrancabermeja and the project is likely to be extended in the next year to include six or seven additional municipalities.

With regard to the context in which the Peace Program is developed, the last quarter witnessed an indefinite rupture in peace negotiations between the FARC and the Government of Colombia (GOC) and a popular trend toward military solutions to the country's armed conflict, after what was considered by many (and supported by observable indicators such as rates of forced displacement) to be the worst year on record in Colombia's current conflict. Notwithstanding the Program's efforts to seek out initiatives that will deliver benefits and peace-promotion results even against the background of a failed National Peace Process, the context in which these activities must develop is certainly relevant to their design and delivery. The contextual section of the present report is divided in three sections, each essential in understanding the present role of peace promotion: the first includes selected data and analysis to provide a snapshot of the conflict in the last year; the second outlines the breakdown in negotiations with the FARC and perspectives for 2002; and the third addresses specifically the negotiations with the National Liberation Army (hereafter ELN for its Spanish initials) including a chronology of its recent shared history with the Government of Colombia.

In Section III, the means by which program activities are able to maintain – or in many cases expand – their relevance and capacity to promote peace, despite the mostly-negative developments in the National Peace Process, is examined. In brief, projects retain their utility and value in several ways:

- They **build community fabric**, thereby strengthening local resolve and capacity to resist conflict; they sponsor positive ideas and leadership at the local level.
- They address a widespread apathy regarding the peace process by **fostering commitment to the search for pacific solutions** and converting sectors of the country into “stakeholders” in the National Peace Process
- They promote **linkage between basic democratic values** – including freedom of press, transparency and the right to fair elections – **and the promotion of peace.**
- They contribute to dialogue on the conflict, its victims and the advantages of pacific settlement by disseminating **peace messages to new audiences through innovative media.**

II. CONTEXT

Trends & Figures on Conflict in 2001

During the first quarter of 2002, key sources for information on the conflict produced and published annual data and analysis on the events and tendencies of the conflict in the last year; representative data is presented below:

- Although internal displacement is only one manifestation of internal conflict, it is perhaps the most visible indicator of the incidence and patterns of violence in Colombia. The geographical area covered by municipalities in which population is uprooted by violence is growing; according to the Estimation System employed by RSS, 64% of IDPs were expelled from 52 municipalities in 2001, compared to 75% from 37 municipalities in the previous year. As of January 2002, only San Andrés, Providencia and Vaupés registered zero expulsion of IDPs.
- Migration of illicit crops; according to the Defensoría del Pueblo, civilian populations in departments along the Pacific Coast report increasing pressure from armed actors to engage in the production on illicit drugs; the positive relationship between fumigation in the south and new crop production along the Pacific Coast is visible clearly in the migration of families or groups from Putumayo to new cultivation zones in coastal Nariño.
- The aftermath of combat between guerrilla groups and military forces may result in increased risk to civilians; the report of the Defensoría del Pueblo notes that operations to dislodge insurgent groups and destroy illicit crops backfire on the civilian population upon the exit of military troops and re-entry of guerrilla groups. The case cited in the report is that of Operation Tsunami in Nariño, where civilians were harshly punished by the FARC for alleged cooperation with the army.
- Urbanization of the conflict; the last year demonstrated increasing incidence of forced displacement from urban centers, previously considered to be receptor communities. Armed groups are establishing a regular presence in marginal neighborhoods of large cities, such as Barrancabermeja in Santander which expelled 4,012 persons in 2001. (Source: Ombudsman for Human Rights and Social Solidarity Network)
- More often in urban settings than in rural ones, the occurrence of murder for reasons of “social cleansing” is reported; victims include the extreme poor, the physically weak and disabled, persons suffering from mental disorders, drug addicts, homeless persons, prostitutes, homosexuals, among others. (Source: UNHCHR)
- The most grave violation of human rights, the assassination of persons individually or in groups is most often registered in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Sucre, Valle del Cauca and Tolima. A high number of these killings are attributed to paramilitary groups; the AUC is deemed responsible, for example, for 89 massacres involving the death of 527 persons total in 2001.
- Massacres producing the largest number of deaths include that in Alto Naya (Cauca, April, 32 deaths), in Chengué (Sucre, January, 24 deaths) Buga (Valle, October, 24 deaths) Aguacatal (Cauca, January, 10 deaths) Rio Bravo (Valle, August, 9 deaths) and Frías (Tolima, September, 9 deaths) and Granada (Antioquia, April 7 deaths). This information was reported in the UNHCHR Annual Report on Human Rights in Colombia.
- Actual and De Facto Blockades; the tactic of isolating regions by impeding free circulation on roads is employed primarily by the guerrilla groups and has made land-based transportation dangerous in several areas, most notably in Norte de Santander and on the highway connecting Medellín to Bogotá.

- The state of the Colombian economy shows sporadic signs of recovery, but still is a matter of grave concern. According to the National Planning Council, per capita income fell 5 percentage points in 2001 and 77% of workers earned less than necessary to purchase the “Basic Basket” of goods and services. (Cited in UNHCHR Annual Report) The economy is closely tied to the conflict inasmuch as the conflict holds back economic recovery; it was recently reported in Oxford Analytica that the conflict costs the country some 2 billion dollars (2.2% GDP per year).
- Civilian population in territory recently won or recovered by an armed group suffer high levels of violence; this was the case for example in Putumayo as the paramilitaries expanded their rule to areas historically dominated by the FARC and in Gabarra, where FARC punished coca-workers previously employed by paramilitaries.
- Terrorist acts were carried out by the FARC, the ELN and the paramilitaries during 2001; most notably: In August, the ELN exploded a bomb in the Municipality of San Francisco (Antioquia) causing the death of 3 children, as well as the destruction of some 30 houses. Later than year and in the same department, the ELN set off 50 kilos of explosives in El Peñol resulting in the death of 5 persons. In October, the FARC attacked an oilduct in Riohacha, Guajira, which killed a mother with her four children. The AUC assumed responsibility for a car bomb placed before the Patriotic Union offices in Bogotá. (Source UNHCHR Annual Report on Human Rights)



Departments with planted anti-personnel mines (Source: Vice Presidential Program 2001)

- Children continue to bear the brunt of the country's violence; the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights received information on forced recruitment by FARC and paramilitaries of children under 15 years of age to engage in armed combat. Illegal armed groups are responsible also for sexual violence against girls, including the practice of recruiting (kidnapping) girls to serve as sexual partners. According to Fundación País Libre 103 children under 12 years of age were taken as hostages between January – September of 2001. (Source UNHCHR Annual Report on Human Rights)
- The Vice-Presidential Program on Human Rights reports the existence of approximately 70,000 anti-personnel mines in Colombia, located in 162 municipalities. A mine-related accident occurs once every 2.5 days; thirteen percent of the victims are children.
- Catalysts for a sharp upturn in conflict, predicted for the near future, merge into a progressive upward tendency in violence. Note that between 1996 and 2000, the number of armed actors in guerrilla and paramilitary forces increased from 13,400 – 29,000. (Source: Ministry of Defense)

Breakdown in Peace Talks and Electoral Perspectives

Even prior to the February breakdown in peace talks between the GOC Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (hereafter FARC, for its Spanish initials), the feasibility of a negotiated settlement with this insurgent group during the Pastrana administration was cast in doubt. Less than one month after the near-collapse in talks – salvaged at the last minute by means of international negotiation of the UN General Secretary's Special Advisor to Colombia, James LeMoyne – President Pastrana voiced popular opinion on February 20th in telling the FARC that: “A truce is impossible.”

In fact, the ensuing events occurred with less bloodshed than most commentators had predicted and months after the re-occupation of the former demilitarized zone in southern Colombia, neither marked

escalation in combat nor massive displacements of persons has materialized. Instead, the FARC have resorted to terrorist acts, aiming to destroy public infrastructure, to isolate targeted municipalities and to spread fear amongst civilian populations.

Several trends indicate increased public support for military solutions to the conflict, including Alvaro Uribe's projected victory in the next presidential elections, who is the candidate expected to adopt the hardest line in addressing the insurgent armies and has proposed strong measures such as the arming of a one-million strong civilian resistance movement.

It is worth noting a further irony: not only has the utility of peace negotiations called into question by the failure of talks with the FARC, but the negotiations are now perceived by many to be an indirect cause of further conflict; the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman notes in its annual report on that 10% of the displacement of last year took place in those departments where demilitarized zones existed or were being negotiated. While the report recognizes a variety of conflict sources in Magdalena Medio, for example, eruptions of violence – product of dialogue on an ELN demilitarized zone – in the municipalities of Morales, San Pablo, Santa Rosa, Simití and Cantagallo led to large-scale movements of Colombian peasants.

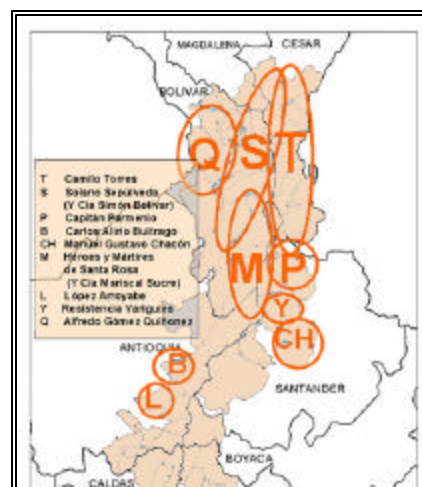
Negotiations with the ELN: History in Brief

The history of the present series of peace talks between the GOC and the ELN is one of false dawns, interruptions, crises, and fresh starts. The process got underway in February 1998 under the Samper administration with an agreement to later join in a National Convention. Two months on the Convention was called off by the ELN, who claimed the event was being instrumentalized for political gain. Two months further on, members of the National Committee for Peace, including Mr. Sabas Pretelt, signed the Manis Accord with Pablo Beltrán, the parties agreeing to hold talks in Germany.

In July of the same year, a meeting was indeed held in Warzburg during which the Puerto del Cielo Accord was signed, stipulating the establishment of an operational committee to prepare for the National Convention, as well as partial compliance by the ELN with International Humanitarian Law. In October 1998, the peace process is declared by the newly elected President Pastrana and political recognition is proffered to the ELN. Nonetheless, peace talks were again thwarted later that year when the ELN exploded an oil-duct in Antioquía, resulting in the death of 70 persons. Under Peace Commissioners Gonzalo de Francisco and Victor G. Ricardo, talks sputtered and stalled and were called off by presidential decree in June 1999, after the ELN hijacking of an Avianca plane (46 passengers) and the large-scale kidnapping of 143 persons from a Catholic church in Cali.

Peace talks were started again in October 1999 and a meeting was held in San Pablo Bolívar later the same month to discuss the possibility of a Zona de Encuentro (read demilitarized) in this area of Magdalena Medio. In January of 2000, the ELN exploded 200 energy towers – allegedly as a means of pressuring governmental action on the Zona de Encuentro. Meanwhile, however, the communities to be affected by the territory proposal organized under the umbrella of Asocipaz to demonstrate their objections to the initiative by blocking roads and waterways.

In September 2000, the ELN kidnapped 70 persons in what is referred to as the Kilometer 18 event, in Valle del Cauca; upon liberation of these kidnapped persons, the Government confirmed again its



Historic Areas of Control ELN (Source Vice- Presidential Office for Human Rights)

interest in negotiating the Zona de Encuentro. Peace talks gain ground in the following months with a agreement by the ELN to free all policemen held in captivity.

However, by April of 2001 no headway had been made on the issue of the Zona de Encuentro and the ELN suspended talks *again*, claiming the Government had not kept its word. In August, the Government responds by calling off the process in its entirety.

Peace talks start again in December of 2001 in Havana; all arrest orders for those ELN members granted negotiator status are cancelled. The process was back on and the ELN promised a calm Christmas; kidnapping resumed in full in January of this year. Something like the National Convention planned back in 1998 took place in the last days of January in Cuba.

Undoubtedly, the rupture of the process with the FARC and the widespread acceptance of this measure by the Colombian public and international community alike triggered a change in perspective for the ELN. Predictions as to the strong offensive to be pursued by the next administration will not have escaped their attention either. Coupled by a strong commitment by the current governmental leaders to show positive results of their administration-long policy of peace negotiations, the ELN's apparently genuine will toward negotiated settlement has given rise to much optimism.

III. PEACE PROMOTION IN THE CURRENT COLOMBIAN CONTEXT

In the following section and with reference to several approaches to peace promotion and 14 specific peace projects in implementation and development, an effort is made to assess the role of peace promotion in the context of a failed national peace process, predictions of conflict intensification and popular sentiment that seems to be shying away from pacific solutions.

By Building Community Fabric and Strengthening Local Resistance to Conflict:

The following projects, which empower communities to prevent and transform conflict in their own environments, continue to be highly important to the citizen's movement for peace, notwithstanding the breakdown in the National Peace Process.



Women's group in El Llanito receiving
technical assistance in vegetable production;
VallenPaz

VallenPaz: Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution

This project works to improve the quality of life of villagers in war-torn municipalities of Cauca and Valle del Cauca, simultaneously providing beneficiaries with organizational and conflict resolution tools. By providing groups with opportunities to meet and to cooperate around common goals (economic improvement, in this case) the project catalyses activities that build the community fabric; for example, a group of 30 women joined resources to start a collective garden. On a larger scale, beneficiaries in Pance have created a new grassroots organization – the organization has sought and obtained technical and assistance from local partners to develop an Eco-tourism project and a Community Bank.

Observatorio para la Paz and Confecamaras: Peace and Negotiation Training at the Academic and Community Levels

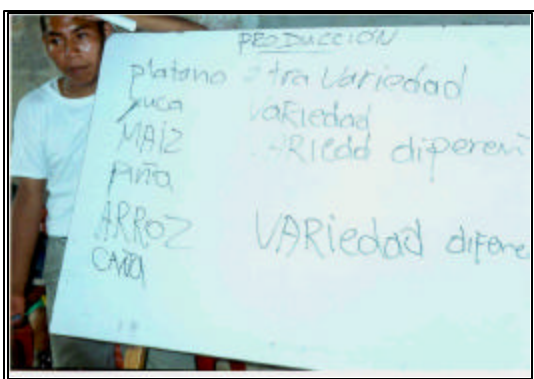
This project designed to provide urban neighborhood leaders with practical tools to resolve and manage conflict as well as to fuel dialogue on pacific solutions to the conflict in academic institutions. The project is co-implemented by a well-established NGO on the one hand and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce on another. The demand for this hands-on approach to peace training was so high among university students, opting for an internship with the project, that the number was increased from 20 to 25 interns, made possible by the voluntary reduction in transportation/food stipends to the selected students.

Con Fe Paz: Institutional Strengthening and Research Project on War-Handicapped Persons

Con Fe Paz is receiving more attention everyday from Colombians and the international community alike, due in large part to the courage and innovation demonstrated in this peace initiative, which brings ex – combatants from all sides of the conflict together to meet a common need: assistance to their special needs as war-handicapped individuals. The difficulty and strength of this initiative were demonstrated with clarity in an activity jointly sponsored by Con Fe Paz and the Amigos de los Discapacitados Foundation: to benefit persons referred by Con Fe Paz, the Foundation is working with groups (comprised by ex – guerrilla, ex – military and civilians harmed by both sides) to generate psychosocial and economic well-being among these war-handicapped persons. Tensions ran high in the first group sessions between former enemies, but one beneficiary now tells us:

“What we’re least interested in now is conflict and violence; we are all handicapped persons with one specific goal: to improve ourselves.”

Again, what appears to be a key to the success of this kind of project is identifying shared needs of the beneficiary group; in their joint endeavors to obtain real benefits and quality of life improvements, reconciliation follows.



Workshop on productivity training and project formulation in Orito

Plan de Vida of the Embera Katio

This project was designed to help this indigenous community, located in the high-conflict municipality of Orito, to recover cultural and economic patterns of ethnic survival; as the project is located in an area covered under the Alternative Development (AD) program, sponsored by USAID, the Peace project does not include any financial investment in agricultural activities. However, the organizational and training components of this project allowed the community to build consensus, develop and propose collective projects for AD funding; three of these projects were approved.

By Fostering Commitment to the Search for Pacific Solutions:

Pundits comment on the ease with which many sectors of Colombian society gave up on the peace talks. The cause most often cited is the distrust felt by most regarding FARC motives and intentions in the negotiations; another reason for the lack of commitment to the process, however, may be rooted in the perception held by many Colombians that the peace negotiations represented neither a serious effort towards reform nor the interests of the public at large. In other words, most Colombians did not see themselves as *stakeholder's* in the process of negotiation with the FARC.

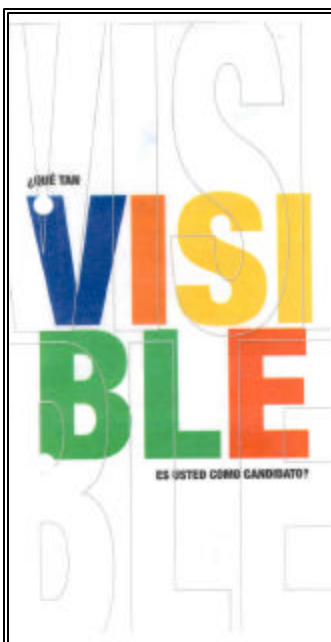
The Strengthening Peace Program has sponsored two efforts to build consensus and commitment among non-negotiating parties to the process by building sectoral consensus as to the desired results of reform and negotiation. The first of these works with the well-established NGO, Humanizar, dedicating to advancing women's rights in Colombia. The second is a project carried out with key figures in the private sector and members of the trade guilds, nationally. Under this project with the Consejo Gremial, the private sector is provided an opportunity to share its expertise to the negotiators on issues ranging from economic structural reform to negotiated political settlement to land issues.

By Linking Peace to Basic Democratic Values:

Another area of assistance, developed in the last two quarters, has involved efforts to link basic democratic practices and values to approaches to peace promotion. In the area of electoral process & peace, the Peace Program has sponsored the following:

Revista Semana and other News Services: The VotoBien website on Congressional and Presidential Candidates

This is an on-line newspaper and interactive forum focusing on the March and May elections in Colombia. The project was designed to provide investigative reporting on corruption, vote-purchasing, peace platforms and candidates' links with armed groups and also to create a space for dialogue on these issues; during the run-up to the congressional elections, the site received some 300,000 "hits" and interactive sites, such as a Chat room called "Say It!" received more than 5,000 participants.



Los Andes University: Congreso & Candidatos Visibles

This is a complementary effort to that presented above; the Los Andes University project manages a comprehensive database on candidate profiles, which is accessible also through the VotoBien website. The Los Andes project also ensures access to information on candidates to the large sections of the country that lack internet access; this is carried out through field visits and a localized campaign on electoral information and voting, as well as through print copy of the Congreso y Candidatos Visibles distributed through the highest-circulation national paper, El Tiempo Nacional.

Left: Brochure to promote registry by new candidates in the system: Message reads: "How Visible a Candidate are you?"

Electoral Council and Sergio Arboleda University: National Seminar on Democratic Culture

This three-day event allowed the participation of more than 700 persons from around the country; the seminar had practical goals, including the set-up of municipal level task forces to follow-up on electoral practices. International experts from the European Union, Oxford University and the Organization of American States provided presentations.

In a separate area of democratic values, the Medios para la Paz team is receiving USAID/IOM sponsorship to research, raise awareness and provide practical guidelines to improve the neutrality and security of journalists. According to a recent report by the Foundation for Free Press and the Ministry of the Interior, between 1977-1999, 150 journalists were killed; between 1999 – 2000, 29 journalists were killed and in the last year 12 were killed, 13 left the country in response to threats, 15 were kidnapped and 11 were threatened, but did not leave the country. In proposing this investigation, the hypothesis of Medios para la Paz is that journalists and media directors can minimize risk by maintaining more distance from their sources and, generally, adopting more professional ethics.

By Broadcasting Messages through Innovative Media:

Raising awareness in Colombia regarding the destructive forces of the armed conflict requires originality as the market is fairly saturated with standard peace messaging. Furthermore, seminars, theater and art exhibits that promote peace seem often to target the same Bogotá-based audience and fail to reach those persons most directly affected (and involved) in the conflict. The Peace Program has provided small contribution to two movie projects which attempt to raise awareness among broad audiences and through less traditional means. The first project is a movie on the challenges of Demobilization and Reintegration for Ex – Combatants and has been broadcast nationally and regionally in the last four months; the second is a big-screen film directed by the acclaimed Colombian director Victor Gaviria on the links between the conflict and drug-trafficking, set in the violent capital of Antioquia, Medellín. This movie is set for release later this year.

By Continuing to Support the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace:

Upon announcing the definitive termination of peace talks with the FARC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace scaled back on operations and personnel. With most press attention on the rupture with the FARC, however, the Office continued to work on the sidelines on a negotiated settlement with the ELN.

To support this effort, the Peace Program has contracted a full-time consultant to advise the High Commissioner on the negotiations; the consultant is an ex – combatant and a civil society leader; the Program continues to fund the Ideas para la Paz project which has made considerable headway in systematizing historical data and documentation on the peace processes in Colombia which is to be accessible in an electronic format for agile reference.

With regard to the Program's support to the Government's negotiations with the ELN, the Peace Program will sponsor an International Seminar on Negotiation, Disarmament and Reintegration of Ex – Combatants. The event will take place in the third week of June in Bogotá and will include presentations by international experts from peace processes in Africa, Central America and the Balkans. The desired results of the seminar are practical ones: a clear understanding of “the Do's and Don'ts” of these progressive steps towards lasting peace negotiations, in light of lessons learned throughout the world.

Basic Information on all ongoing and approved projects (as of the end of March 2002) is provided in the table below:

Table 1: Information on Approved and Ongoing Projects

#	PROJECT & ORGANIZATION	BENEFICIARIES			GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE	AREA OF ACTIVITY
		DIRECT	INDIRECT	DILUTED IMPACT		
1	Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution (VALLENPAZ)	5,000 in beneficiary families	--	25,000 in beneficiary communities	Cauca, Valle del Cauca	Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims
2	Strengthening of Colombian Confederation of NGOs (CCONG)	250 NGO workers	2,000 database users	10,000 beneficiaries of NGO projects	Chocó, Meta, Santander, Quindio	Civil Society Participation – Capacity Building
3	Reconciliation through Assistance for Victims of Conflict in Magdalena Medio (Comisión Vida y Paz)	1,000 persons in beneficiary families	--	2,500 persons in beneficiary communities	Santander, Bolivar & Antioquia	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims
4	Sumas y Restas: Movie on the Personal and Societal Dangers of the Drug Trade (Ducha Fría Producciones)	50 “natural” actors	10,000 viewers in target audience	1,000,000 movie viewers	Antioquia	Civil Society Participation – Message Broadcasting
5	Strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace	60 public officials	5,000 persons in close involvement with the Peace Process	National	National	Support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace
5a	Systematization for Easy Reference of Peace Processes in Colombia	--	2,000 regular database users	--	--	--
5b	Capacity-building in Communications & Information Technology	--	--	--	--	--
5c	Sub-contracts to specialized consultants	--	--	--	--	--
6	Peace & Negotiation Training at the University and Community Levels (CONFECAMARAS and Observatorio para la Paz)	700 students and local leaders	3,500 students and community members	--	Bogotá, Coastal Region	Civil Society Participation – Conflict Resolution
7	Media Professionalization Research Project and Journalism Website (Medios para la Paz)	2,500 journalists and regular Web Site users	5,000 Occasional Web Site users	Journalists in Colombia	Bogotá, Antioquia, Caquetá, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Nariño, Córdoba	Civil Society Participation -- Media
8	Construction of a Gender-Focused Proposal for Peace Negotiations	700 women	15,000 in women’s groups, web-site users and recipients of Agenda for Peace	--	National	Civil Society Participation
9	La Decisión de San Mateo: Movie on Demobilization and Reintegration Experiences (Observatorio para la Paz)	50 former combatants	200 former combatants in NGOs, 250 former child soldiers	1,800,000 television viewers	National	Civil Society Participation – Message Broadcasting
10	Institutional Strengthening of CONFEPAZ and Research Project on War-Handicapped Persons	210 present & projected members	2,000 assisted in follow-up activities	War-handicapped population	Antioquia	Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims
11	Virtual Library and Research Center on Ethnic Minorities & Human Rights (Fundación Hemera)	2,050 NGO workers and regular Web Site users	5,000 occasional Web Site users	Ethnic minorities in Colombia	National	Excluded Groups

12	Voto Visible: Website on congressional and presidential candidates (Revista Semana & Transparencia)	5,000 regular Web Site users (voters)	15,000 occasional Web Site users (voters)	--	National	Peace and Electoral Process
13	Community Strengthening for Development, Indigenous Culture and Conflict Resolution	700 Embera Katio	500 members of other indigenous groups	--	Putumayo	Excluded Groups
14	Entrepreneurial and Psychosocial Support to War-handicapped Persons (Fundación Amigos de los Limitados)	100 handicapped persons	400 family members of beneficiaries	War-handicapped population	Antioquia	Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims
15	Congreso & Candidatos Visibles (University of Los Andes)	1,000 participants in civic education activities	--	500,000 recipients	National	Peace and Electoral Process
16	Private Sector Research & Perspective on Peace Negotiations (Fundación Empresarial)	581 public officials and members of trade boards	5,000 persons involved in peace process ¹	National	Bogotá/ National	Civil Society Participation
17	Ludotecas Naves (Corporación Día del Niño)	80 Ludotecarios	70,000 children using the Ludotecas	--	National	Peace Initiatives
18	Foro Universidad Sergio Arboleda	700 seminar assistants	--	--	Bogotá	Strengthening Peace & Civil Society Participation
19	Support to the Activities of OFP (Organización Femenina Popular)	2,827 beneficiaries of small loans and regular service at soup kitchens	3,358 OFP Members, beneficiaries' families of micro-credit and occasional users of the 'comedores'	--	Magdalena Medio	Strengthening Peace & Civil Society Participation
20	Center for Peaceful Co-existence	20,500 regular users of the Center	40,500 occasional users of the Center	--	Barrancabermeja, Santander	Reconciliation
TOTALS		44,058	184,708			

IV. FOURTH QUARTER ACTION PLAN

In the next quarter and with the funds available at present for the Program for Strengthening Peace in Colombia, the IOM/USAID team will start implementation on a few small-grant projects identified and developed in the last four months. However, priority is placed on two large-budget activities to be carried out in the months of April through June, including the construction of a Casa de Justicia in the former demilitarized zone and the organization of an international seminar to build institutional capacity concerning negotiation, disarmament and reintegration of ex – combatants, most likely of the National Liberation Army or the ELN. (Initiative described above in Section III.)

The present “pipeline” of peace initiatives is outlined in the table below; each project will be developed and submitted for approval, according to the availability of funds.

¹ Indirect Beneficiaries counted under Support to High Commissioner's Office project and not included twice in the beneficiary total.

Table 2: Pipeline Projects

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET ESTIMATED	GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE
Casa de Justicia of San Vicente del Caguán	Project to coordinate and construct the implementation of a Casa de Justicia in the former demilitarized zone; the Casa will include several social services, including a Ludoteca and a Cultural Center.	200,000	Southern Region (former demilitarized zone); Casas de Justicia and Co-Existence Centers
International Seminar on Negotiation, Disarmament and Reintegration of Ex - Combatants	This 2.5 day seminar will take place in Bogotá on June 20 – 22; speakers will be brought in from around the world.	100,000	Bogota / National; Support to the High Commissioner for Peace; Reconciliation
Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Democracia	Support Caldon and Puracé in the southern Department of Cauca toward recovery from recent attacks and community stabilization.	55,163	Southern Departments; Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims
Corporación Jurídica Libertad	Project among at-risk and returning communities in Chocó to prepare for land-titling, train municipal workers and research land tenancy issues in this area. (Chocó)	51,090	Chocó; Civil Society Participation
Hogar de Paso Jesús de Nazareth	Support to handicapped victims of conflict, particularly mine victims, toward socio-economic reintegration. (Santander)	85,000	Magdalena Medio; Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims
Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris	Community strengthening in urban Bucaramanga through organization and implementation of social-benefit projects	36,707	Magdalena Medio; Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims
Mayor's Office of Juradó	Support to returnees from Panamá in areas of attention such as family reunification and conflict prevention between returnees and receptor populations (Chocó)	80,000	Chocó; Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims
Fundación Multicolor: Information System for Peace	Development of Community radio and TV to promote alternative media and community organization.	38,000	Magdalena Medio, Chocó & Antioquía; Civil Society Participation
TOTAL ESTIMATED FUTURE OBLIGATIONS		645,960	



Entry to present Cultural Center building in San Vicente del Caguán, located on the municipal plaza and to be expanded for multi-purpose use as a Casa de Justicia

V. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

To date USD have been expended under the Peace Program; including US in Staff and Office Costs, US in Field Travel, US in Project Disbursements and in IOM Overhead..

Finally, this section presents a table demonstrating the status of budgetary implementation of each project. As noted above, significant funds are expected to be expended for large-budget activities to be implemented in the next quarter (Center for Peaceful Co-Existence in Barrancabermeja, International Seminar on Ex – Combatant Issues and the Casa de Justicia in San Vicente del Caguán) which has slowed the pace of new project

identification and therefore of financial disbursement. Through the end of the reporting period, 806,225 USD had been expended on project activities and a further 1,057,901 USD Represent unliquidated obligations to approved/ongoing projects, for a total of 1,863,789 in project expenses and obligations.

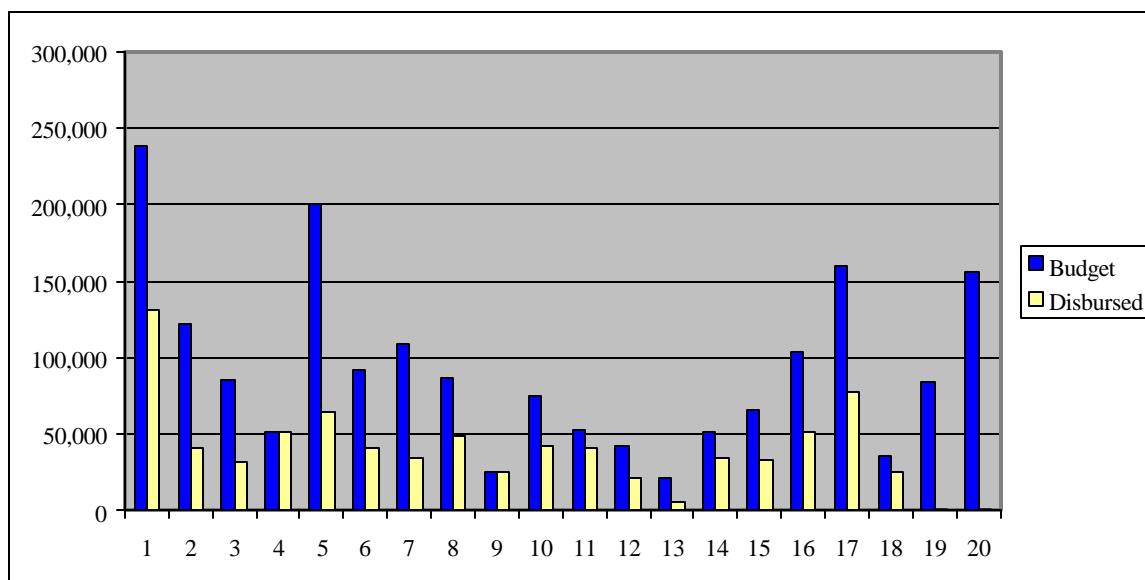
If we add to this amount, the funds required for the first four projects on pipeline in the preceding table (in advanced stages of approval) total obligations for projects would equal 2,270,042 USD, surpassing the Peace Grants budgetary line by more than US 90,000 Dollars.

Table 3: Budgetary Implementation by Sub-Project

#	PROJECT TITLE	CONTRIBUTION PEACE PROGRAM	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	DISBURSEMENT STATUS THROUGH 31/03/2002 (BY IOM)
1	Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution (VALLENPAZ)	238,919	1,850,690	130,717
2	Strengthening of Colombian Confederation of NGOs (CCONG)	122,394	176,774	40,951
3	Reconciliation through Assistance for Victims of Conflict in Magdalena Medio (Comisión Vida y Paz)	86,121	126,496	32,584
4	Sumas y Restas: Movie on the Personal and Societal Dangers of the Drug Trade (Ducha Fría Producciones)	52,015	1,108,367	52,015
5	Strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace	200,000		64,736
5(A)	Systematization for Easy Reference of Peace Processes in Colombia	49,832	63,329	37,246
5(B)	Capacity-building in Communications & Information Technology	35,716		17,423
5(C)	Sub-contracts to specialized consultants	26,900		10,067
6	Peace & Negotiation Training at the University and Community Levels (CONFECAMARAS and Observatorio para la Paz)	92,461	123,213	41,442
7	Media Professionalization Research Project and Journalism Website (Medios para la Paz)	109,349	130,966	34,923
8	Construction of a Gender-Focused Proposal for Peace Negotiations	86,888	96,445	48,684
9	La Decisión de San Mateo: Movie on Demobilization and Reintegration Experiences (Observatorio para la Paz)	25,601	128,658	25,601
10	Institutional Strengthening of CONFEPAZ and Research Project on War-Handicapped Persons	74,550	88,067	42,554
11	Virtual Library and Research Center on Ethnic Minorities & Human Rights (Fundación Hemera)	53,070	68,923	40,910
12	Voto Visible: Website on congressional and presidential candidates (Revista Semana & Transparencia)	42,924	48,283	21,072
13	Community Strengthening for Development, Indigenous	22,007	23,507	6,338

	Culture and Conflict Resolution			
14	Entrepreneurial and Psychosocial Support to War-handicapped Persons (Fundación Amigos de los Limitados)	52,178	73,781	34,800
15	Congreso & Candidatos Visibles (University of Los Andes)	65,470	105,902	32,820
16	Private Sector Research & Perspective on Peace Negotiations (Fundación Empresarial)	103,569	221,943	51,784
17	Ludotecas Naves (Corporación Día del Niño)	159,516	372,876	77,720
18	Foro Universidad Sergio Arboleda	36,368	68,440	25,200
19	Support to the Activities of OFP (Organización Femenina Popular)	84,909	91,127	734
20	Center for Peaceful Co-Existence Barrancabermeja	155,817	284,919	596
Totals		1,864,126	5,252,706	806,181

Chart 1: Chart on Disbursement vs. Budget by Project



VI. ANNEXES

- i. Project description & status summary cards
- ii. Press-cuttings and other visual materials
- iii. Financial reporting forms

			001
Title:	Community Strengthening for Peace, Recovery and Conflict Resolution	Coverage:	Cauca, Valle del Cauca
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims	Duration:	5 Months (Extended for Distribution)
Direct Beneficiaries:	5,000 members of beneficiary families	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	25,000 persons in beneficiary communities	Total Budget:	US \$1,850,690
Prog. Contribution:	US \$238,919	Disbursement:	US \$130,717
Implementing Agency:	VALLENPAZ	Other Partners:	Investment Fund for Peace, FIP

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project was proposed to USAID by VALLENPAZ, an NGO founded in 1999 and dedicated to working with war-affected populations in the departments of Valle del Cauca and Cauca, primarily through community-led organization and agricultural development. The project is developed in three municipalities of Valle del Cauca with 1,000 families or 5,000 persons, considered to be heavily affected by the ongoing violence in this department. Activities include a series of workshops with potential beneficiaries to consolidate productive associations and promote alternative dispute resolution at the local level. A second phase focuses on technical training in design, formulation and administration of productive micro-projects. In the third phase, special attention will be given to women heads of family in providing seed money for a revolving credit fund for household agricultural production; the Investment Fund for Peace (FIP, for its Spanish initials) will support agricultural development with these families with an estimated budget of 764,561 USD .

Through the end of March 2002, the training component had been completed in Pance; in Buenos Aires and Jamundí, entrepreneurial development and project formulation modules are scheduled for the next quarter, as both municipalities have suffered setbacks on account of violence between guerrilla and paramilitaries. In fact, in Jamundí the presence of a group from AUC at a recent training made necessary a change of venue for 132 trainees to the urban center of the municipality.

In January, three revolving funds were established, each to cover one municipality; the operation of these funds is in varying stages with Buenos Aires as the most advanced case, where beneficiaries have already planted their collective vegetable gardens with corn, beans, tomato, onion, pepper, lettuce, cucumber, carrots, cabbage, peas and beets. It is important to note that the "credit" provided in the rotating funds is given in-kind rather than cash, and is expected to be returned in-kind as well. The flexibility shown by VALLENPAZ in the productive projects developed by beneficiaries has proven highly effective in motivating community participation; in Buenos Aires a group of 30 women work closely in their own collective garden in El Llanito. In Pance a new communal organization was created as a result of the training experience and rotating funds; with assistance from the Valle del Cauca Corporation (CVC) the group has developed a proposal for Ecotourism in their municipality. To convert their rotating fund into a more formal and sustainable "Banco Comunitario" the group has requested financial and technical assistance from various universities, the Ministry of Agriculture and SENA. The Javeriana and San Buenaventura universities have committed to providing technical training and accompaniment.



Community Training in Pance



Soil preparation for collective vegetable gardens in Buenos Aires

			002
Title:	Strengthening of the Colombian Confederation of NGOs	Coverage:	Chocó, Meta, Santander & Quindío
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	7 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	250 NGO Workers	Indirect Bens:	2,000 Database Users
Diluted Impact:	10,000 beneficiaries of CCONG projects	Total Budget:	US \$176,774
Prog. Contribution:	US \$122,394	Disbursement:	US \$40,951
Implementing Agency:	CCONG	Other Partners:	Corpometa & Asopetrol
Description & Status: (Ongoing)			
<p>Since it was created in 1989, the Colombian Confederation of NGOs has grown in membership and presently represents 11 departmental federations comprised by 54% of NGOs in the country dedicated to social development issues. This project aims to build the capacity of CCONG to provide real benefits to its members in terms of networking and fundraising support. CCONG will work with 5 regional federations to increase cooperation among NGOs specialized in peace promotion, build a database of NGO projects and unfinanced proposals and document lessons learned in peace promotion by the participating NGOs. One important foreseen impact of CCONG's activities is to improve coordination between government and civil society by enhancing a practical working relationship with the "Employment in Action" program financed under Plan Colombia.</p> <p>A total of 232 NGOs are participating in the project: Chocó (25) Santander (21) Quindio (30) Corpometa (150) and Asopetrol (6). To date, training has been conducted in the areas of organizational strengthening (with cooperation from the Andes University) and project formulation; a database of services offered by participating NGOs has been designed and created in English and Spanish and the mapping exercises are in advanced stages of development. Ongoing activities include the collecting of success stories on NGO projects for peace promotion; this activity was piloted in Chocó. Through this project, 110 projects are to be prioritized and developed in a CCONG Portfolio to be presented to donors; 90 of said projects have been identified already. One of the objectives of this project is to increase the visibility, credibility and funding opportunities for participating NGOs. In this regard, one of the project federations has been invited to an international NGO seminar in Spain where the federation will present their project portfolio to potential donors.</p>			



Institutional training for NGO members of Corpometa.



Institutional training on NGO management (for directors) in the Los Andes University

			003
Title:	Reconciliation through Assistance for Victims of Conflict in Magdalena Medio	Coverage	Magdalena Medio
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims	Duration	12 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	1,000 persons in beneficiary families	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	2,500 persons in beneficiary communities	Total Budget:	US \$126,496
Prog. Contribution:	US \$86,121	Disbursement:	US \$32,584
Implementing Agency:	Comisión Vida y Paz Diócesis de Barrancabermeja	Other Partners:	--

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

In similar fashion to the VALLENPAZ project described above, this project aims to promote reconciliation at the local level by providing directed assistance to victims of conflict. The project was proposed by the Dioceses of Barrancabermeja of the Catholic Church to be managed by their social action branch, the Comision Vida y Paz. The Comision began working in Magdalena Medio in human rights and grassroots development projects in 1994 and have carried out projects in civic education, legal aid, conflict negotiation and systematization of peace initiatives. The Comision requested the assistance of the Peace Program in order to assist 100 vulnerable families who have been victimized by the conflict through the loss of a family member or other gross violations to human rights. These 100 families, selected on a case-by-case basis will be given psychosocial and/or legal assistance – if necessary – and supported in the establishment of small productive projects.

Through the end of the reporting period, the Comisión Vida y Paz was working with close to 50% of the project's target group, constituting 105 families in the municipalities of Barrancabermeja, Yondó, San Pablo, Puerto Wilches, Catagallo, Puerto Parra, Cimitarra and Sabana de Torres. Twenty-two of these families are receiving legal aid and 30 are receiving psychosocial support – focused on addressing grief for family members lost to violence; in Puerto Wilches, where the psychosocial project is advanced, seven beneficiaries created a Mutual Support Group (GAM, for its Spanish initials); in San Pablo, the psychosocial component is assisted technically by the national NGO, Fundación Dos Mundos.

In April, the Comisión Vida y Paz will incorporate a further 100 – 120 families in the project and begin disbursements for micro-productive projects.



Psycho-social Assistance through group-drafting of Life Histories



Establishment of support group in Barrancabermeja

			004
Title:	Sumas y Restas: Movie on the Personal and Societal Dangers of the Drug Trade (Ducha Fría Producciones)	Coverage:	Antioquia
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation – Message Broadcasting	Duration:	4 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	128 “natural actors”	Indirect Bens:	10,000 viewers in target audience
Diluted Impact:	1,000,000 movie viewers	Total Budget:	US \$1,108,367
Prog. Contribution:	US\$ 52,015	Disbursement:	US \$52,015
Implementing Agency:	Ducha Fría Producciones	Other Partners:	Ministry of Culture, Caracol and a private enterprise of Spain
Description & Status: (Completed)			
<p>Victor Gaviria, the acclaimed Colombian director of La Vendedora de Rosas and Rodrigo D. No Futuro, requested financial assistance for the filming and production of this new movie. Like these other movies, Sumas y Restas is the gritty story of some of Colombia’s impoverished and disenfranchised inner-city residents and aims to increase social awareness on the issues faced by these people. Sumas y Restas is set in Medellín, the capital city of the department of Antioquia, the one-time operating center of Pablo Escobar and arguably the most violent city in the world. The movie aims to demonstrate how the drug-trafficking has permeated every level of Colombian society and led to the destruction of the country’s social fabric, as well as the lives of involved or unlucky Colombians. The movie is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and a Spain-based producer, but lacked essential funds to start filming.</p> <p>The movie is still in post-production; in May the movie will be sent on to Spain to incorporate the soundtrack and later submitted to compete in two European festivals (Venice and San Sebastián).</p>			

			005
Title:	Strengthening of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	As above	Duration:	11 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	60 Public Officials	Indirect Bens:	5,000 Persons involved in Peace Process; 2,000 users of Ideas para la Paz database
Diluted Impact:	Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$200,000
Prog. Contribution:	US \$200,000	Disbursement:	US \$64,736
Implementing Agency:	Various, including direct implementation by IOM	Other Partners:	--
Description & Status: (Ongoing) <p>Institutional support to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace is a program component that was established in the original proposal as a means of improving the quality of the Government of Colombia's (GOC) participation and leadership in the National Peace Process. Through a series of meetings with representatives from this Office, USAID and IOM, a simple procedure has been developed to facilitate the identification and approval of specific interventions to address the needs of the High Commissioner. According to Colombian laws and as a means of avoiding lengthy bureaucratic procedures, all components will be implemented directly by IOM or by a third non-governmental party.</p> <p>To date, the Program has provided to the High Commissioner's Office to provide a library with specialized texts on peace processes and negotiation in English and Spanish, an electronic and interactive systematization of existing documentation and analysis concerning Colombian peace processes was carried out by a sub-contracted NGO; IT and communications equipment was purchased for office and field operations and short-term consultancies were contracted to conduct research and provide technical assistance.</p> <p>The Ideas para la Paz project has advanced in the area of research and has gathered existing documents from the Presidency, the High Commissioner for Peace Office, various universities, CINEP, the Luis Angel Arango library, as well as official documents (press releases, declarations, laws and presidential speeches). The database has been designed and set up with some 1,138 registries (information sources and/or specific documents) already.</p> <p>Most recently, and in support of the ongoing process with the National Liberation Army (ELN), the Program is financing a full-time consultant, a demobilized ex – combatant and a civil society leader, to assist the Office in negotiations for disarmament and reintegration of the ELN.</p>			

			006
Title:	Peace & Negotiation Training at the Academic and Community Levels	Coverage:	Bogotá, Coastal Region
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	8 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 students and local leaders	Indirect Bens:	3,500 students and community members
Diluted Impact:	--	Total Budget:	US \$123,313
Prog. Contribution:	US \$92,461	Disbursement:	US \$41,442
Implementing Agency:	CONFECAMARAS and Observatorio para la Paz	Other Partners:	Network of Universities for Peace (UNIPAZ)

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project was designed as a joint endeavor between three sectors of Colombian civil society: academia, the private sector and NGOs, represented in the Network of Universities for Peace, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the Observatorio para la Paz, respectively. In essence, the project supports these organizations to develop a model for teaching Colombian citizens the historical context of current conflict and peace processes, accompanied by more practical learning in conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level. The model is then applied as a pilot in two settings: first in universities and second in marginal neighborhoods surrounding Bogotá. Although these are the central objectives of the project, it is worth noting the value-added of this project; namely, start-up support to the CONFECAMARAS-implemented and United Nations-supported Center for Conflict Solution opened in December of this year, and increased incorporation of university staff and students into community efforts.

To date, the project team has been contracted and started working on the curricular design; Confecamaras and Observatorio are working together to design the popular format of the curriculum for application in urban areas. Openings for student interns to work in the program was announced in 11 major Bogotá-based universities and the demand was so large and of such high quality that the number of interns was increased from 20 to 25, each voluntarily receiving a smaller stipend for the work. Confecamaras has submitted the design for the urban training, based on Alternative Conflict Solution Mechanisms (MASC, for its Spanish initials) as well as on community management and justice proposals.



Preparation activities with university interns

			007
Title:	Media Professionalization, Research Project and Journalism Website	Coverage:	Bogotá; Antioquia, Caquetá, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Nariño & Córdoba
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	11 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	2,500 Journalists and regular Web Site users	Indirect Bens:	5,000 occasional Web Site users
Diluted Impact:	Journalists in Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$130,966
Prog. Contribution:	US \$109,349	Disbursement:	US \$ 34,923
Implementing Agency:	Medios para la Paz	Other Partners:	National and Regional Media
Description & Status: (Completed)			
<p>This project is a follow-up to a pilot financed by the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives in early 2001, in which Medios para la Paz proved to be a responsive and responsible partner in peace efforts centered on the role of journalism in Colombia. The project is comprised by two components: the first is continuation of the Web Site, installed with OTI funds, which includes links and press briefs on the conflict and peace in Colombia, tools for better journalism and an interactive forum in which journalists can request practical advice. The second component is a research project, designed following a hypothesis that the murders and threats faced by journalists in Colombia – particularly in the field – can be averted to a large extent by better practices by the journalists themselves. The research and its dissemination to press managers and writers will focus in the departments of Cundinamarca, Caquetá, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Nariño and Córdoba.</p>			

			008
Title:	Construction of a Gender-Focused Proposal for Peace Negotiations	Coverage:	Bogotá, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca/National
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	10 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 women	Indirect Bens:	15,000 in women's groups, web-site users and recipients of Agenda for Peace
Diluted Impact:	--	Total Budget:	US \$96,445
Prog. Contribution:	US \$86,888	Disbursement:	US \$48,684
Implementing Agency:	HUMANIZAR	Other Partners:	Various women's groups
Description & Status: (Ongoing)			
<p>This project addresses an urgent need in the Colombian peace talks to incorporate a gender-focused approach to the negotiations and, specifically, to ensure that the priorities and the skills of women are fully applied to peace processes at the national and local level. The project proposed by Humanizar has two important components: the first is a kind of counter-proposal to the male-dominated agenda for peace negotiations espoused by the GOC and the armed groups, and the second involves a more local approach to empowering women to participate in the civil society movement towards peace, through training and network building.</p> <p>Through the end of March 2002, the first of the agenda workshops had taken place in Popayán with participants from Cauca and Valle del Cauca (women from Nariño and Putumayo were unable to attend the event due to road blockades). One hundred and twenty (120) women participated in the event, of which about one-third came from rural and/or indigenous groups. The building of a women's network for peace promotion has progressed with the completed design of the Website, workshop materials on the network, participation in several national events and the new membership of 38 gender-focused organizations.</p>			



Workshop with women's organizations to prepare Agenda for Peace with a gender-sensitive focus

			009
Title:	La Decisión de San Mateo: Movie on Demobilization & Reintegration Experiences	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation – Message Broadcasting	Duration:	2 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	50 former combatants	Indirect Bens:	200 former combatants in NGOs; 250 former child soldiers
Diluted Impact:	1,800,000 television viewers	Total Budget:	US \$128,658
Prog. Contribution:	US \$25,601	Disbursement:	US \$25,601
Implementing Agency:	Observatorio para la Paz	Other Partners:	Redepaz, Ministry of the Interior, Fundación Nuevo Arco Iris
Description & Status: (Completed)			
<p>This project was started with seed money from USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) earlier this year and received additional assistance from several NGOs and the Ministry of Interior's Reintegration Department. As the project expanded in filming sites and technology, as well as in duration – from a one hour TV special to a full-length film – Observatorio para la Paz requested additional assistance from USAID Mission to Colombia to complete post-production.</p> <p>In the months of July and September, all post-production activities were completed and the film “La Decisión de San Mateo” was presented on the 13th of September in the National Museum with an audience of 300 people. Similar inaugural events were carried out in Medellín and Bucaramanga. The first showing on television was aired on December 16 on the national Channel 1 to an audience estimated at 380,000. Dissemination will continue through regional channels, including Telecaribe, as well as in forum events sponsored by Redepaz, the Reinsertion Department of the Ministry of the Interior, the Javeriana University, the Mayor's Office of Bolivar (Cauca) among others.</p>			

			010
Title:	Institutional Strengthening of CONFEPAZ and Research Project on War-Handicapped Persons	Coverage:	Antioquia
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Assistance to Victims	Duration:	9 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	210 present & projected members	Indirect Bens:	2,000 persons assisted in follow-up activities
Diluted Impact:	War-handicapped population of Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$88,067
Prog. Contribution:	US \$74,550	Disbursement:	US \$42,554
Implementing Agency:	CONFEPAZ	Other Partners:	Fundación Amigos de los Limitados Físicos

Description & Status (Ongoing):

CONFEPAZ is an organization comprised by ex – military and guerrilla combatants who were handicapped while engaged in the conflict. The resources provided by the Peace Program aim to support the NGO in providing assistance to other war-handicapped persons, but aims simultaneously to increase awareness in Colombia on this operational model of reconciliation. For this reason, the project includes social communication components to promote CONFEPAZ activities nationwide through radio and, eventually, audio-visual media. Likewise, the project will institutionally strengthen CONFEPAZ by providing basic equipment and technical assistance in carrying out a survey on war-handicapped persons in the Department of Antioquia.

With regards to the Antioquia-based survey on war-handicapped persons, all field activities for information-gathering were completed in March; the survey includes 461 case histories of war-handicapped persons (including civilians) and 128 psychological questionnaires. Concerning the social communication aspects of the project, Con Fe Paz continues to receive national and international attention for their innovative model of reconciliation, including coverage by Telemundo, Caracol International, El Tiempo, RCN in Cali, El Colombiano and Caracol Medellín. The documentary on the NGO is written and will begin filming in April for a public launching in Medellín scheduled for July. Con Fe Paz also gained visibility through public events, like the Act of Reconciliation carried out with an Army Brigade (IV) in Medellín.

Perhaps the most tangible achievement reached by Con Fe Paz during this quarter relates to the assistance this organization has been able to provide to war-handicapped persons. They have referred 52 persons to receive training at Fundación Amigos de los Discapacitados, 10 to work with UNDP in the Call Center of the “Laboratory for Peace” and a further 10 to work for a Medellín-based manufacturing company. Con Fe Paz also received in donation 20 prosthetic limbs for donation to war-handicapped persons.

A source of continuing concern for the Con Fe Paz team are the threats that they are receiving anonymously by telephone and mail.



(Above) Reconciliation Event held in Medellín in February; (right) representative of Con Fe Paz's partner organization in the establishment of a Rehabilitation Center in the city

			011
Title:	Virtual Library on Ethnic Minorities & Human Rights	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Work with Excluded Groups	Duration:	9 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	2,050 NGO workers and regular Web Site users	Indirect Bens:	5,000 Occasional users
Diluted Impact:	Ethnic Minorities in Colombia	Total Budget:	US \$68,923
Prog. Contribution:	US \$53,070	Disbursement:	US \$40,910
Implementing Agency:	Fundación Hemera	Other Partners:	

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

The scarcity of reliable statistical information on ethnic minorities in Colombia represents an obstacle to designing appropriate assistance projects and policy-making. Fundación Hemera proposed a nationwide census of ethnic minorities and a dissemination strategy based around the construction of an Internet Web Site. The site includes results of the census, but also a forum mechanism to promote dialogue on issues affecting ethnic minorities, including the conflict, and a link to news on human rights violations to ethnic minorities. Likewise, the Site will make accessible information on Indigenous Law, Human Rights incidents, existing research and a photo gallery, through databases to be published on the Internet.

At present and since 2001, the database is operational and in continuous “construction” of new pages; for example, a Law Record now includes 45 registries on constitutional law pertaining to indigenous rights and the audio-visual library now includes 74 audio and more than 200 photographic products.

The first edition of the Virtual Newspaper was published on the 26th of November and covered the National Gathering of Indigenous Peoples, that took place in Cota, Cundinamarca during this quarter. Since then 8 further editions have been produced and widely distributed to an e-mailing list. Interactive events have included three Virtual Chats, two Opinion Surveys and links to a dozen indigenous organizations that have requested that their web sites be accessible by link to the Hemera Site.

One of the indicators of impact of this project is its demonstrated utility; in this regard, the increasing recognition and access to the Hemera Site during the last quarter is remarkable. The number of hits has jumped from 11.026 in January to 105.295 in March; the page has been given press on RCN radio, Semana Revista, the Web-site of the World Bank, the French AP, among others, and is now referenced on major Internet search engines, such as Yahoo, Google, Altavista and development gateway. Users are located throughout the world, including Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Canada, Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland.



Image left demonstrates the format for photo registry in the database; above a photograph of a visit received by Hemera from the Antioquia Indigenous Organization

			012
Title:	Voto Visible: Website on congressional and presidential candidates	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Peace and Electoral Process	Duration:	8 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	5,000 regular Web Site users	Indirect Bens:	15,000 Occasional Web Site users
Diluted Impact:	National	Total Budget:	US \$48,283
Prog. Contribution:	US \$42,924	Disbursement:	US \$21,072
Implementing Agency:	Revista Semana & Transparencia	Other Partners:	National Media Companies

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

This project is the first to be approved under the component of Peace and Electoral Process, representing an effort by the Peace Program to contribute to democratic elections, specifically by improving access to voters on congressional and presidential candidates. Through an Internet site, this project provides a link to bibliographical information on each candidate (to Congreso y Candidatos Visibles) responses to questionnaires, investigative reporting on possible cases of platform-to-practice inconsistencies and corruption and an interactive forum for discussion of candidates. There is a special focus in this electronic information service on information on the candidates relationship to armed actors and his or her proposals for peace.

This page went on-line on February 10th and was promoted on a national scale through Semana magazine, as well as FM and RCN radio stations. Since its inauguration, the site has been received approximately 300,000 “hits” and some 800 e-mails from viewers throughout the country. In its interactive events, including forum discussions and a spot called “Say It!” some 5,719 persons participated. On the page, 77 articles have been published, several of which were developed exclusively for Votebien on topics such as the rupture of the peace process and campaign financing.

The most difficult objective to accomplish has been the investigative component of the project, in which complaints related to electoral practices are received electronically (50 have been received to date) and an investigative team follows up on the story. Unfortunately, in many cases the person lodging the complaint is unwilling to provide further information; the project team of Votebien comments on the pervasive fear felt in many municipalities with regards to denouncing corruption and illegal actions taken by armed groups to control electoral results. One completed article demonstrates that electorate lists contain the names of deceased persons in several cases. (See Annex 2 for Press Coverage on Votebien)



VoteBien Web Site

			013
Title:	Community Strengthening for Development, Indigenous Culture and Conflict Resolution	Coverage:	Putumayo (Orito)
Strategy:	Work with Excluded Groups	Duration:	6 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 Embera Katio	Indirect Bens:	500 members of other ethnic groups
Diluted Impact:	--	Total Budget:	US \$23,507
Prog. Contribution:	US \$22,007	Disbursement:	US \$6,338
Implementing Agency:	Asociación Embera Katio de Orito	Other Partners:	Mayor's Office

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

The Embera Katio are an indigenous tribe originating in Colombia's north; a small group arrived in Putumayo in the 1970s and settled in the southwestern valley, bordering Nariño. This tri-municipal area (Orito, San Miguel La Dorada and La Hormiga Valle de Guamuez) is the largest producer of coca in Putumayo and has been the most hotly contested area by paramilitaries and FARC guerrillas. The precarious arrangement between the two groups to allow paramilitary domination in the urban centers and FARC control elsewhere leaves peasants in a situation of forced quarantine, wherein they face great risks of being labeled sympathizers of one or another groups as they pass from one side of this invisible wall to another. Violence and fear in Putumayo threaten not only the lives of its residents, but also their livelihood as economic activity – that part of it not controlled by the armed groups – is paralyzed and community structures are dismantled.

The Embera Katio program was designed by the youths of this community of less than 150 families as a means of building capacity in economic and agricultural planning, as well as in community organization and conflict resolution, to resist the erosive forces of the conflict.

To date, the training components of the project are well advanced; workshops on Legislation and on Productivity have been carried out in all three multi-village zones; the productivity workshops were moved forward on the schedule as the Embera community wanted to develop proposals to submit to Plan Colombia-financed alternative development (please note that this project does not include any funds for agricultural development). These were developed in the workshops, through participatory methods, and three proposals have been approved already. The initial investment made to this project has leveraged additional funds, including a cash investment made by the Mayor's Office to pay for an Embera association office and in-kind contributions from the Fundación Vida y Futuro for a zoo-technician, a secretary and workshop materials. The project team has found time to provide technical assistance to nearby Awa and Pasto indigenous groups.



Photo (left): Mapping exercise with young people

Title:	Entrepreneurial and Psychosocial Support to War-Handicapped Persons (Fundación Amigos de los Limitados Físicos)	Coverage:	Antioquia
Strategy:	Reconciliation and Assistance to Victims	Duration:	10 Months
Direct Beneficiaries:	100 handicapped persons	Indirect Bens:	400 family members
Diluted Impact:	War-handicapped population	Total Budget:	US \$73,781
Prog. Contribution:	US \$52,178	Disbursement:	US \$34,800
Implementing Agency:	Fundación Amigos de los Limitados	Other Partners:	CONFEPAZ

Description & Status: (Ongoing)

Fundación Amigos de los Discapacitados has been working with mentally and physically handicapped persons in Antioquia since 1994. This organization, which over the years has developed solid experience in the area of psychosocial assistance, requested the assistance of the Peace Program to work with war-handicapped persons. The project was designed to support 100 persons, 80 of whom will be selected by CONFEPAZ during this organization's survey in Antioquia, to recover psychologically as well as economically. The income generation component will be important as a model of successful reintegration of war-handicapped persons into normal, civilian life – a model that will be useful to Colombia in the event of a larger-scale peace-building or reparations process. The economic component begins with a self-selection phase in which beneficiaries decide whether to pursue a self-owned business or employment in the formal labor market. The former group will receive entrepreneurial training and technical assistance to develop business ideas; the latter group will receive vocational training and support in identifying possible jobs in their municipalities.

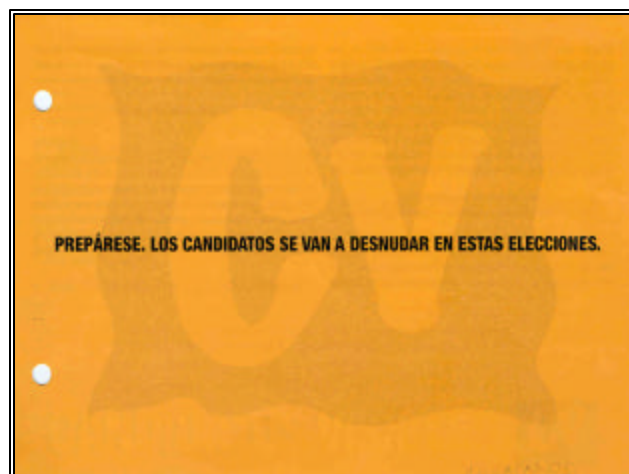
Through the end of the reporting period, the program team had been contracted and a sub-contract was awarded to the Human Welfare Foundation for the economic training components. Three groups, each with no fewer than 20 beneficiaries, had begun their training; one selected by Amigos para los Discapacitados and two referred by Con Fe Paz. On average, the beneficiary group is comprised by persons aged 31 – 40 years, with a primary-school education, who were handicapped on account of injury by a firearm (58%).

It is important to note that at the beginning of the sessions, there were some problems and tensions between trainees as the groups represented ex – guerrilla, ex – military and alleged sympathizers of various illegal armed groups. This kind of conflict was expected and its resolution – successful so far – is one of the most important achievements of the project to date. Regarding these early problems, one participant explains that: “What we're least interested in now is conflict and violence; we are all handicapped persons with one specific goal: to improve ourselves.”

Group receiving economic and psychosocial training with Fundación Amigos



			015
Title:	Congreso & Candidatos Visibles	Coverage:	National
Strategy:	Peace and Electoral Process	Duration:	7 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	--	Indirect Bens:	--
Diluted Impact:	500,000 recipients of information on candidates	Total Budget:	US \$105,902
Prog. Contribution:	US \$65,470	Disbursement:	US \$32.820
Implementing Agency:	University of Los Andes	Other Partners:	National Media Companies
Description & Status: (Ongoing) <p>This project, submitted by University of Los Andes to USAID, is the second to be approved under the component for Peace and Electoral Process and, like the Voto Visible project, is designed to improve the quality and access of information related to candidates. Unlike Voto Visible, this project does not include an investigative component, but intends to distribute basic bibliographical data and professional records of all candidates into the hands of at least 500,000 Colombians. The project includes educational campaigns in no fewer than 10 cities so that the dissemination of written information is accompanied by local teaching and dialogue, led by project partners such as the Church, local and regional media, schools, Chambers of Commerce and various NGOs.</p> <p>The information campaign sponsored by Congreso y Candidatos Visibles started in January of this year; to ensure that a large number of candidates participate in the campaign, the program was promoted widely on radio, written press and television. A subsequent measure was taken to ensure that citizens made use of the information available on the Congreso & Candidatos Visibles website, involving a massive distribution of informational bulletins to citizens (100,000 bulletins). The project team carried out workshops to inform citizens on legislative action since 1998 in Bogotá, Cali and four other cities; additionally, meetings were held with civil society and private sector organizations to promote citizen "watch" on elections. Several cities in which this part of the campaign was carried out started the process of creating municipal electoral councils for electoral verification.</p> <p>As noted above, information on candidates was also disseminated in traditional formats to reach communities lacking internet access; El Tiempo included profile information in its National Edition. In this manner, 280,000 copies were distributed, representing an estimated readership of 1 million Colombians (3.5 per paper bought). Finally, other partners have joined the program, including the National Endowment for Democracy, Confecámaras, several banking organizations and the Fundación Social.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Image below: Promotional material on the Congreso Visible informative materials, to ensure access to site and newspaper information.</i></p>			



			016
Title:	Private Sector Research & Perspective on Peace Negotiations	Coverage:	Bogotá/National
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	4 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	581 public officials and members of trade boards	Indirect Bens:	5,000 persons involved in Peace Process
Diluted Impact:	National	Total Budget:	US \$221,943
Prog. Contribution:	US \$103,569	Disbursement:	US \$51,784
Implementing Agency:	Fundación Empresarial	Other Partners:	Consejo Gremial and Chambers of Commerce Nationwide
Description & Status: (Ongoing)			
<p>This project is part of a wider effort of the Peace Program to bring the so-called Civilian Movement for Peace closer to the recognized national peace process, by ensuring that the perspectives of various sectors are made accessible to the negotiators and society at large. In this case, the Program is supporting the Council of Trade Guilds (Consejo Gremial) through an associated NGO called Fundación Empresarial to develop concept papers on 8 subjects, including: Truce, Negotiated Political Settlement, Agrarian Policy, Economic and Social Structures, Justice, Political Reform, International Law and Formulation of Peace Accords. The Consejo Gremial is tasked with ensuring that the concept papers reflect the expertise and opinions of the Guilds and, in this way, that they represent a concerted opinion of an important and influential sector of Colombia.</p> <p>As contractual negotiations were completed at the end of the reporting period, project activities are scheduled to start in the first month of 2002.</p>			

			017
Title:	Capacitación a Ludotecarios	Coverage:	Bogotá
Strategy:	Peace Initiatives	Duration:	8 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	80 ludotecarios	Indirect Bens:	70,000 children users of the Ludotecas
Diluted Impact:	National	Total Budget:	US \$ 372,876
Prog. Contribution:	US \$159,576	Disbursement:	US \$ 77,720
Implementing Agency:	Corporación Día del Niño	Other Partners:	
Description & Status: (Ongoing)			
<p>The Corporación Día del Niño, an NGO dedicated to channeling private and public sector resources to educational programs for highly vulnerable children and youths, requested financial assistance from the Strengthening Peace Program to improve an ongoing project called: "Ludotecas Naves." The so-called Ludotecas are cultural and recreational centers for children, located mostly in poor and isolated municipalities which offer little in the way of productive uses of free-time to their resident minors. Specifically, the budget for this project is earmarked for training of the Ludoteca's facilitators as a means of improving the creativity and pedagogic quality of the services offered to the program's more than 70,000 direct beneficiaries (regular users of the Ludotecas).</p>			

			018
Title:	Foro Cultura Democrática	Coverage:	Bogotá
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	2 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	700 participants in the seminar	Indirect Bens:	2,100 persons in offices and municipalities where participants work, through “multiplication” of seminar lessons
Diluted Impact:	Nationwide	Total Budget:	US \$ 68,440
Prog. Contribution:	US \$36,368	Disbursement:	US \$ 25,200
Implementing Agency:	Sergio Arboleda University	Other Partners:	

Description & Status: (Completed)

The National Electoral Council, in partnership with Sergio Arboleda University, requested the assistance of USAID and the Strengthening Peace Program to carry out a 3-day national seminar on transparency and public oversight of elections. The seminar aimed to result in the creation of municipal level task forces to follow-up on congressional and presidential elections, an awareness campaign to generate democratic values and practices and increased commitment on behalf of academia to support research and dissemination on the role of democracy vis-à-vis development, conflict and peace in Colombia. The Seminar, sponsored also by the Organization of American States, brought several key international speakers including Oxford professor, Malcolm Deas, EU parliament member Mr. Jannis Sakellariou, among others.



National Seminar on Democratic Culture,
held in Bogotá

			019
Title:	Support to the Activities of OFP	Coverage:	Yondó, San Pablo, Cantagallo, Puerto Wilches y Barrancabermeja (Magdalena Medio)
Strategy:	Civil Society Participation	Duration:	8 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	2,827 regular users of the 'comedores' and beneficiaries of micro-credit	Indirect Bens:	3,358 OFP Members, occasional users of the 'comedores' and family members of the credit beneficiaries
Diluted Impact:		Total Budget:	US \$ 91,127
Prog. Contribution:	US \$84,909	Disbursement:	US\$ 734
Implementing Agency:	Organización Femenina Popular - OFP	Other Partners:	
Description & Status: (Approved) <p>The Popular Women's Organization (hereafter OFP, for its Spanish initials) was founded in 1972 and has grown into one of the largest popular organizations in the high-conflict region of Magdalena Medio and one of the most important women's organizations in the country. In the context of escalating conflict, the organization recognizes and addresses the differentiated impact that armed violence and forced displacement have on women and men and aims to provide special assistance to women affected by conflict. The project has two components: the first works to strengthen the OFP program for neighborhood "soup kitchens," which provide both low-cost nutritional alternatives to poor families as well as opportunities for neighborhood social organization; the second aims to make viable a rotating fund for micro-economic opportunities for the 480 female members of the OFP Cooperative.</p> <p>As contractual negotiations were completed at the end of the reporting period, the start of program activities is scheduled for the month of April.</p>			



Current state of OFP soup kitchen in the Primero de Mayo neighborhood of Barrancabermeja

			020
Title:	Centro de Convivencia de Barrancabermeja	Coverage:	Barrancabermeja, Santander
Strategy:	Reconciliation & Civil Society Participation	Duration:	8 months
Direct Beneficiaries:	20,500 regular users of the Center	Indirect Bens:	40,500 occasional users of the Center
Diluted Impact:		Total Budget:	US \$ 284,919
Prog. Contribution:	US \$155,817	Disbursement:	US\$ 596
Implementing Agency:	Alcaldía Municipal de Barrancabermeja,	Other Partners:	Corporación Día del Niño, Fundalectura, Entidades del Estado y Junta de Acción de la Comuna 5 de Barrancabermeja
Description & Status: (Approved) <p>Barrancabermeja is the unofficial capital of a region known as Magdalena Medio, comprised by 29 municipalities of 5 departments, and considered a historical ‘hotspot’ in the Colombian conflict since the resettlement of hundreds of thousands IDPs here, in the aftermath of La Violencia in the middle of the last century. The long-term effects of such violence tend to erode the social fabric that holds communities, neighborhoods and cities together; Barrancabermeja is not an exception in this regard and is increasingly cited as an example of the “urbanization” of the armed conflict as a result of increased activity of armed groups in the city, the forced displacement of residents from one neighborhood to another and the rising levels of street crime.</p> <p>This project brings together the municipal administration, regional and national entities of civil society and grassroots organizations in the establishment of a Peaceful Co-Existence Center in one of Barrancabermeja’s most marginal neighborhoods, La Comuna 5. The center provides administrative and legal assistance on site, educational opportunities for children, youths and adults and much-needed physical infrastructure and space for grassroots organizing.</p>			